

### **REMARKS**

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-2 and 17-34 are pending in the application with claims 1, 23, and 31 being independent claims. Claims 3-16 have been cancelled without prejudice of the subject matter therein and all rejections related to these cancelled claims are rendered moot. Claims 17-34 are new. No new subject matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. et al. 6,803,856 to Murphy et al. (hereafter “the Murphy patent”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,959,568 to Woolley (hereafter “the Woolley patent”). Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the foregoing amendments and withdraw all outstanding rejections in view of the following remarks.

#### ***Interview Summary***

On behalf of the Applicant, the undersigned wishes to express appreciation to Examiner Scott Au for the courtesies extended during the interview conducted on October 19, 2006. During the interview, the disclosures of the Woolley patent and the Murphy patent were discussed in light of the currently pending claims. Potential amendments to the claims were also discussed.

#### ***The Claims Comply with the Written Description Requirement***

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner states that no antecedent basis exists in claim 1 for “an interface between the container.” Applicant has amended the claims to eliminate the reference to the “interface.” Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

***The Claims are Allowable Over the Woolley and Murphy Patents***

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Murphy patent in view of the Woolley patent. The Murphy patent in view of the Woolley patent fails to disclose or suggest the elements of independent claim 1 as amended. Claim 1 includes an apparatus with an externally accessible radio frequency tag affixed to a container and configured to receive inventory-related information from a passive radio frequency tag disposed within the container. As discussed during the interview, the Woolley patent focuses on interactions between active tags and peripherally describes the use of a passive tag only as a repeater of a signal during an intertag range measurement. Also, the Murphy patent fails to describe an externally accessible radio frequency tag and is silent with regard to the use of passive tags. Thus, the Murphy patent in view of the Woolley patent fails to disclose or suggest the elements of independent claim 1. For at least this reason, independent claim 1 is allowable over the Murphy patent in view of the Woolley patent. Based at least on their dependence upon claim 1, dependent claims 17-22 are also allowable.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

***The New Claims are Allowable Over the Woolley and Murphy Patents***

Independent claim 23 recites “acquiring information associated with a radio frequency tag disposed within a container using an interior radio frequency interrogator disposed within the container, the acquiring being triggered when the container changes from being open to closed, the radio frequency tag coupled to an object disposed within the container; and transferring the information to an exterior radio frequency tag disposed exterior to the container, the exterior radio frequency tag configured to send an inventory indicator to an external interrogator, the inventory indicator being based on the information.” Accordingly, the references cited by the Examiner fail to disclose or suggest the elements of independent claim 23. For at least this reason, independent claim 23 is allowable over the cited references. Based at least on their dependence upon claim 23, dependent claims 24-30 are also allowable.

Independent claim 31 recites “an exterior radio frequency tag disposed exterior to a container and configured to send an inventory indicator to an external interrogator, the inventory indicator indicating inventory information associated with a group of radio identification tags disposed within the container; and an interior interrogator coupled to the exterior radio frequency tag and configured to be disposed within an interior portion of the container, the interior interrogator configured to poll during an interrogation time period each radio identification tag from the group of radio identification tags to acquire an identification of each radio identification tag from the group of radio identification tags, the inventory information being based on the identification of each radio identification tag.” Accordingly, the references cited by the Examiner fail to disclose or suggest the elements of independent claim 31. For at least this reason, independent claim 31 is allowable over the cited references. Based at least on their dependence upon claim 31, dependent claims 32-34 are also allowable.

### **CONCLUSION**

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding rejections and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that further personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided. Prompt and favorable consideration of the Amendment to the claims is respectfully requested.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

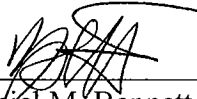
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Respectfully submitted,  
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